

Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Staff Report

Name: Paul Gier

Month: July

Agriculture (130.0 hrs)

- Reviewing the process and steps for creating Tier III plans that have resulted from meeting with cooperators seeking farmstead improvements. Site visits to existing cooperators seeking assistance in manure storage projects, silage leachate mitigation systems, heavy use and barn yard concrete pad areas, and fencing with stream crossing layouts. Meeting with new clients interested in AEM participation as a result of increased communication working among and between farmers.

Renewed interest and activity with the opening of STAIEP round 2 beginning August 01st. Have met with perspective cooperators expressing interest and information on applying for STAIEP grants.

Water Quality (0 hrs)

- I spent no time on Water Quality projects this month.

Stormwater (0 hrs)

- I spent no time working on Stormwater projects this month

Invasive Species (0 hrs)

I spent no time working on Invasive species projects

District Operations (14 hrs)

Staff Meetings (*Goal/Action/Activity)

- Attending scheduled staff meetings during June.

General Office operations

- Answering phone calls, emails.
- Continued training on AEM Tier 3, 4, and 5 planning.
- Attended Upper Susquehanna Coalition Ag meeting in Cortland Soil and Water office. Meeting held with USC staff on districts efforts toward sediment and nutrient runoff mitigation. Discussion on riparian buffers, cover crops, and conservation tillage efforts on farms in the upper Susquehanna and Chenango watersheds.

Personnel Development/Training (* Goal/Action/Activity) (11 hours)

- Attended pasture management and grazing workshop training at Shelterbelt Farm, Caroline NY. Attended by farmers and CCE staff. Excellent workshop on mid season pasture management regarding extended grazing and mowing consideration. Focus given on watering options and fence management. Continued focus on soil health and testing. Shelterbelt incorporates it's grazing management among a new orchard establishment.

Earned Income (3 hours)

Education & Outreach (2 hours)

- Working in cooperation with Janice Degni of CCE and Jamie Baker of Swelokan Farms to conduct a cover crops, no till, and soil health workshop on August 23rd. More information and details forth coming.